AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August, 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Truth is strong next to the Almighty.—Milton.

WHOLE NO. 1171 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1933 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 23, NO. 29

Editorials

Buying Power Must Rise Faster

Complaint is general that prices are running too far ahead of buying power. The purchasing power of the masses is not keeping pace with the steadily rising cost of commodities.

Despite gain in employment and wages under the NRA, incomes are still generally low and wage and salaried workers are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. They are exhorted from all sides to buy to the limit of their capacity and they are perfectly willing to do so. But their capacity is very limited.

There is general suspicion that many prices are higher than increased costs under the codes warrant. This suspicion has been voiced not alone by the man in the street but by high Recovery Administration authorities.

Though desirable, it is doubtful if prices can be kept down to enable purchasing power to catch up with them. In the emergency, the only quick and sure remedy is shorter hours and higher wages than have been set in the codes. This is organized labor's program for coping with the situation. The sooner it is adopted, the quicker will the recovery be.

Some Bankers Are Learning

Bankers have shown singularly little comprehension of the state of the public mind during the depression. Despite the appalling revelations of crookedness, dishonesty and inefficiency in banking, that have brought staggering losses to the people, the bankers have apparently believed their business would go on in the same old way. In most cases they have taken a stand-pat attitude, which was reflected by the opposition to insurance of deposits voiced at the recent American Bankers Association meeting.

Some bankers, however, are learning and have begun to understand that the people are aroused and will insist on drastic changes in banking unless banking reforms itself. Henry Bruere, president of a big New York savings bank, is one who has seen a light.

Addressing representatives of banks, trust companies and investment houses, Mr. Bruere declared there is danger of the Government taking banking out of private hands. He said the "threat" of Government banking aros from the fact that "private hands do not equip themselves to be guided by sufficiently broad conception of public needs." This, of course, was a round about way of saying that the "threat" comes from the bankers' "public-be damned" attitude. He added:

> **"I believe it is true that we must now, as practical men, recognize that we are going in the next months, in the next few years, to be compelled to test what we do in banking, what we do in business by its effect on the total economic situation, upon the common good."**

Similar points of view were expressed by other bankers, one of whom, Thomas R. Preston of Chattanooga, said: "Whether we like it or not, we must recognize that the Government is going to have more to do with the control of banks in the future."

These bankers are learning. They know that if banking does not put its house in order so as to serve the nation honestly and well, a Government banking system is almost inevitable.

ROOSEVELT TO BE CHIEF SPEAKER AT GOMPERS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Washington. — President Roosevelt has accepted an invitation to make the chief address at the dedication of the Gompers Memorial, which is expected to draw 20,000 spectators. The dedication ceremonies will be held at 10:30 o'clock on the morning of Saturday, October 7. The President's speech will be broadcast over a nation-wide hook-up.

The Gompers Memorial, the work of Robert Aitken, well-known sculptor, is on a triangle at Tenth Street and Massachusetts Avenue, just in front of the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, which Samuel Gompers headed for 40 years. Across the street is another triangle on which stands a statue of Edmund Burke, another famous fighter for liberty.

The memorial depicts Mr. Gompers seated before the altar of justice at which he so persistently and vigorously pleaded for justice to the wage earner during a long lifetime. To the right at the spectator looks is the memorial, stand the figure of Liberty and behind her that of Justice.

Across the altar of justice two figures symbolic of labor are clasping hands with Justice. A mother holding her child to her breast symbolizes the home. Behind the figure of Liberty at the right with bowed head illustrates the struggle for the protection of children from industrial exploitation—an appeal in which Mr. Gompers led the hosts of labor.

The memorial is designed to be an enduring tribute to Samuel Gompers in the interest of liberty, justice, the home and the children.

Employers Impose Low Wages, Long Hours, On Women Workers, Federal Bureau Finds

Washington.—The extreme handicaps of low wages and long hours which employers in the United States have imposed on women workers for a hundred years are graphically described in "Women at Work," a 50-page pamphlet issued by the United States Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Written by Eleanor Nelson and illustrated by Jean W. Hill of Washington, the brochure describes the changes that have taken place in the occupations of women who work for a living during the last century.

Driven from home work by the factory system and later hired to operate the typewriter and linking systems, employers have persistently imposed lower wages on women than on men doing similar work. The general result, the author declares, is that "for many thousands of women, wages have always fallen far below the cost of decent living, even though they must support themselves and often dependents on their meager earnings."

Victims of Discrimination

The author emphasizes the fact that the jobs which employers have compelled women to take have been mainly in the unskilled and lower-paid classes. This inferior economic status developed the long list of difficult jobs made by women for better working conditions. The results achieved included the establishment of the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, which was enthusiastically sponsored by the American Federation of Labor in 1918 and carried to success when Woodrow Wilson signed the bill setting up the bureau in 1920, and protective legislation against long hours, and night work, gradually increased the present fair competition codes which carry the minimum wage and maximum work hours into every industry.

The oppressive conditions under which Negro and immigrant women are compelled to earn their living are outlined in detail. While these groups have made slight gains, they have been the recipients of the "ragged edges of employment, the lowest wages, and the longest hours."

Two Million Jobless Women

The pamphlet closes with a vivid picture of the suffering which women workers have undergone during the depression. Out of almost 11,000,000 women who ordinarily work for a living, the number of unemployed has increased to more than 2,000,000. Included in the jobless army are many married women discriminated against because of their marital status, many older women whose chances of finding jobs are very slim, and many young women workers for the first time in the labor market.

Profit-mad employers have reduced wages and lengthened hours until a general breaking down of working standards for women has taken place, which has been partially neutralized by increasing attempts to have State legislatures pass more adequate minimum wage legislation dealing with unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, minimum wages, and shorter hours, supplemented by the minimum wage provisions of the codes set up under the National Industrial Recovery Act.

NRA Does Not Bar Closed Union Shop, A. F. of L. President Shows

Washington.—The National Industrial Recovery Act does not prohibit the closed union shop, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, pointed out in reply to assertions made by Henry I. Harrison, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and Robert L. Lund, president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

"Mr. Harriman," President Green said, "quoted as having said in a speech in Chicago, 'I read the language (of Gen. Johnson) correctly, it means that Gen. Johnson considers the closed shop prohibited by the Recovery Act,' while Mr. Lund is represented as having said that labor's organizing campaign 'is the most serious obstacle to the attainment of the objectives of the Recovery Act.'

"I hesitate to challenge the good faith of these gentlemen, so I shall be forced to challenge their intelligence. The National Industrial Recovery Act does not prevent the closed union shop and I mean by that term what we have always meant by it, the closed shop which is union by agreement between the workers and the employers. There never was any other kind and there never can be any other kind.

"What the Recovery Act does is to give the workers their freedom to organize, that is, that power is taken from many more really union shops than ever before and the number is growing daily and rapidly. What hurts Mr. Harriman and Mr. Lund is that the workers now have this freedom and are using it, are using it. They are displayed because wage earners are free to follow their own counsels and are no longer under the necessity of paying tribute to employers who hate to abandon their role of industrial dictators and are no longer under the necessity of signing individual or yellow dog contracts."

Proof of NRA Labor Section Evasion Laid Before Recovery Administrator

President Green of American Federation of Labor, Presenting Mass of Documentary Evidence of Plain Violation of Spirit and Letter of Law, Expresses Confidence General Johnson Will Take Drastic Action.

Washington.—Unmistakable proof that largest corporations are striving to defeat the collective bargaining section of the National Industrial Recovery Act has been laid before Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor.

Material submitted to General Johnson included two-score or more of documents, which President Green declared constituted "definite evidence of astonishing evasions of the law by great employers, some of them so bold and hostile to the letter and spirit of the law that I am certain the Administrator must take immediate and drastic action."

Dupont Plan Is Typical

Among the documents were many that show that corporations are forming or seeking to form company unions and to force their employes to join. Typical of the "company union" schemes was one submitted to its employes by the E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Company of Delaware and subsidiary companies. The plan, as detailed in a pamphlet, provides for the election of "Works Councils" in each unit, consisting of representatives appointed by the management, an equal number of representatives elected by the employes, a chairman elected by and from the membership of the Works Council and a secretary named by the management but having no vote.

The Dupont plan sets forth that the company "shall provide suitable places for meetings of the 'Works Council' and its committees." Another provision says that employes attending meetings of the "Works Council" or any of its committees shall receive their regular pay while absent from work, "for such time as they are necessarily absent from work for these purposes."

Plans Violate Law

These provisions, President Green said, "together with that for company representatives on the 'Works Councils,' brand them as in no sense the kind of employe representation and at variance with the collective bargaining section of the Recovery Act. The law in Section 7a guarantees the right of employes to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and further provides that they 'shall be free from interference, restraint or coercion of employers of labor or their agents, in the designation of such representatives.'"

A plan of "employe representation" proposed by the Mellon-dominated Aluminum Company of America and its subsidiary companies is very similar to the Dupont plan. "Works Councils" set up under the plan would be composed of elected representatives of the employes and an equal number of appointed representatives of the company, the Aluminum Company of America Company specifies that the company shall provide meeting places for the "Work Councils" and shall pay employes for the time spent at meetings.

Schemes Forced on Workers

Plans similar to the two just mentioned and included in the documents were offered by Remington Rand, Inc., of N. Y.; Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, RCA Victor Company, Camden, N. J., and many others.

Evidence that "company union" plans are being forced on workers was offered in a letter to employes of the Lamson & Sessions Company, Kent, O., manufacturers of bolts and nuts. On the letterhead of the company, George S. Case, president, wrote: "The officers consider that an employe representation plan is now desirable and will inaugurate such a plan August 15." No mention is made of consulting the employes on the establishment of the plan.

Tire Company Decrees "Council"

The same kind of move was made by the Pharis Tire & Rubber Company, Newark, O., whose general manager, in a bulletin to employes, said:

"A few months ago we investigated the Factory Council idea of the United States Rubber Company plant in Detroit, and have now practically completed a similar plan for the operation of our company . . . The plan is now in perfection in many large rubber and automotive industries and is daily gaining merit."

Commenting further on the material submitted to General Johnson, President Green said:

"The documents offer clear evidence that employers all over the nation are doing their best to encourage a spurious form of employe representation. Most of the plans provide for company representation on the joint committees or councils. They also provide that the committees or councils shall meet on company property, during working hours, and that employes attending shall be paid for their time.

Plans Branded Frauds

"Of course no real trade union would do business that way. Trade unions meet outside working hours. They do not meet on company property. There are no representatives of the employers present at these meetings.

"It is absurd to think that employes are capable of their own free will, as provided for in Section 7a of the Recovery Act, when they meet under conditions established by the company union plans. The 'employe representation' plans are frauds from start to finish and labor holds they are in direct violation of the law. We shall continue to fight them, pointing out that they have nothing in common with trade unions organized by voluntary action of the workers."

COAL CODE IS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT; BITUMINOUS FIELDS TO BE UNIONIZED

Washington.—Following weeks of dilatory tactics by the coal operators, agreement was finally reached on the bituminous coal code, which was signed by President Roosevelt after the President had eliminated a section opposed by organized labor.

Approval of the code marked a big victory for labor, as under it the softcoal fields of the nation will be thoroughly unionized, by recognition of the United Mine Workers of America.

The section eliminated by the President "interpreted" Section 7a (the collective bargaining section) of the Recovery Act. President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers sharply attacked the "interpretation" and President Roosevelt promulgated the code minus the section. Such "interpretations," he said, "led to confusion and misunderstanding" and "should not be incorporated in codes of fair competition."

Pledges of cooperation in behalf of organized labor were given by Green and Lewis following the signing of the code.

"The United Mine Workers of America will accept the code and make every possible contribution to make it effective," Lewis said.

"The American Federation of Labor will cooperate with the United Mine Workers in making the code effective," Green said, adding that labor was especially pleased that the controversial "interpretation" had been eliminated.

The code sets up machinery for Federal supervision of the soft-coal industry and provides a considerable measure of self-government. It provides means for the settlement of labor disputes and includes trade terms and equitable practices recognized by the bituminous miners and public. It provides a maximum seven-hour week of five days each and bars persons under 17 from employment in the mines.

Retail coal dealers and stores, long fought by the miners, are given a big blow by provisions that empower, rather than maintenance and supervisory forces are not to be required to live in company houses or trade at company stores.

The code provides for a study, with a report by December 31, of the practicability of a shorter work-week.

CHILD HEALTH RECOVERY CONFERENCE IS CALLED

Washington. — Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins has called a national "child health recovery conference" in Washington for October 6 under the direction of the Children's Bureau.

The conference will discuss action for regaining for the children what they have lost in health and strength during the depression. It is expected the conference will inaugurate a nation-wide campaign to find the "more spots" where child malnutrition is the most understanding" and "should not be incorporated in codes of fair competition."

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LABOR PARTY COMMITTEE URGES CURB ON PREMIER

London.—A special committee of the Labor party has recommended sweeping changes in the British executive, often constitution designed to limit the power of the Premier and Chancellor of the Exchequer. The recommendations will be submitted to the party's annual conference in October.

The committee proposes that the Prime Minister have the "assistance" of a deputy premier and that the power of a cabinet and that on all questions he must be subject to a majority decision of the cabinet. The committee also proposes curbing the "excessive authority" of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in expenditure and finance generally.

Columbia River Fishermen Quit

Astoria, Ore.—The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union called a strike as a three-day agreement to fish for 3 cents a pound expired. The union announced fishing would cease until the packers made a satisfactory agreement. About 2,000 men were involved.

UNION GROWTH BRINGING NEW SPIRIT TO INDUSTRIAL TOWNS

Reading, Pa.—Union organization is making gains in Pennsylvania not thought possible a few years ago and is rapidly changing the atmosphere of the smaller industrial cities and towns. Towns which have during the past decade been absolutely closed to union organizers, which have been "company boroughs" in the political sense, and which have been completely open-shop dominated in every department of social activity, especially religious and educational, are now almost overnight becoming new and interesting communities.

With progress in union organization the whole attitude of local police and local authorities is changing. Merchants, teachers and local business men are developing the courage to express their sympathies for the worker. Persons of independence, the man or girl who refused to conform, were, in the past, driven out of these towns either by boredom or intimidation. This breaking of economic barriers must spell a new sort of social and political life for millions of wage earners who refuse to hold down to a status which was virtually feudal in all important respects.

MORE OLDER MEN REPORTED IN "UNEMPLOYABLE GROUP"

New York.—More and more men of 50 and over are becoming members of the "unemployable group," Frank J. Taylor, Commissioner of Public Welfare, stated in a report based on a compilation of lodgings at the Municipal Lodging House. Expressing the opinion that the men of 50 and over will experience real difficulty in ever obtaining regular employment, the report said:

"The younger homeless men, who are occasionally employed, average 10 nights per month at the Municipal Lodging House. Those over 50 years of age (many of them are much older than 50) average 25 nights a month per man."

PRINTING TRADE UNIONS DEMAND 32-HOUR WEEK

President Howard of I. T. U. Declares 40-Hour Week Proposed in Codes Submitted to NRA Would Not Reabsorb Unemployed in Commercial Printing Industry.

Washington.—At hearings on a NRA code for the commercial printing industry, organized labor and other workers demanded that the code provide a maximum 32-hour week with a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour. Longer hours will not reduce unemployment in the trade, labor spokesmen insisted.

Labor's case for the 32-hour week was presented by Charles P. Howard, president of the International Typographical Union, who spoke on behalf of the International Allied Printing Trades Association.

Protesting against the 40-hour week proposed in various codes submitted by employers' organizations, President Howard said a 40-hour week would not reabsorb the unemployed. He added:

"The 40-hour week received by the President's re-employment agreement has not scratched the surface of unemployment in the printing industry."

The proposed code, President Howard said, "was formulated in the true spirit of ascertaining how much the industry could rightfully contribute, but how little it was necessary to concede."

Mr. Howard said that the 32-hour week would lead to four eight-hour days. Overtime for any individual in excess of eight hours a day or 32 hours a week in five weeks did not exceed 16% of the total hours of work were paid for the excess over eight hours a day.

GOTHAM PAINTERS STRIKE FOR MORE PAY, 6-HR. DAY

New York.—Fifteen thousand members of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America went on strike here for a six-hour day, five-day week and $1.65 an hour. The old wage scale was $1.50 for an eight-hour day. The strike tied up work on buildings in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island.

CONCERTED ACTION BRINGS UNION MEN QUICK VICTORY

Rochester, N. Y.—Concerted action proved effective for labor in the contractor on the new post office building here when union refused to erect boiler breeching instead of union iron workers, as specified by contract. When the contractor had discovered all trades were called out and the work was at a standstill, the sub-contractor saw the error of his ways in a very short time, agreed to have union men do the work done by union workers and then have it put back in iron workers. The offer was accepted and the union men returned to work.

LABOR BUREAU HEADS HOLD NIRA RESULTS ENCOURAGING

Geneva.—Results under the recovery program in America are "distinctly encouraging," Albert Thomas, director of the International Labor Bureau, said in an interview.

"We are intensely interested in the success of recovery measures in the United States," Butler said, "because that success will have a great and perhaps decisive effect on the general revival of trade in the world.

"Up to now it is evident the measures taken have achieved a substantial degree of success, unemployment has been diminished and, consequently, although there are great difficulties to overcome, the results may be regarded as distinctly encouraging."

ICKES ALLOTS BIG FUND FOR PUBLIC WORKS PLANS

$1,431,540,230 Speeded on Its Way to Provide Employment for Jobless

Washington. — Allotments from the $3,300,000,000 fund appropriated by Congress for the construction of public works and other forms of employment according to Harold F. Ickes, Public Works Administrator. The allotments total $1,431,540,230.

Work in all instances will start at the earliest possible date, it was said, to several thousand men now out of employment.

Last-minute word to the Public Works Administration shows that work is already under way in 43 parts of the country, as well as in the insular possessions. According to Ickes, the daily increasing number of men being transferred from relief to payrolls was held evidence of the speeding up resulting from the establishment of the decentralized organization for handling the federal projects.

Secretary Ickes estimated that not less than 85 per cent of the public works fund would go into the pay envelopes of labor. "I am extremely pleased with what the end is being accomplished," he said, "figures will not be estimated until they are definitely established."

PAPER APPROVES MORRISON'S ATTACK ON ACCIDENT TOLL

Waterbury, Conn.—In an editorial headed "Accidents Blot on Nation," the Waterbury Republican said:

"Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in a Labor Day address, denounced the accident rate in industry. Pointing out that it is conservatively estimated that 25,000 workers are killed in industrial accidents yearly and that reliable authorities declare that 90 per cent of these accidents are preventible. He rightly called this a shocking situation.

"Incomplete figures on industrial automobile accident toll of 30,000 dead and 800,000 injured. As Marion Perry says in the Hartford Courant, 'the toll of deaths one of the major tragedies of all time—a blot on our sense of decency and a cause of woeful waste.'

"Mr. Morrison and Mr. Few put their fingers on one of America's sorest spots. Accidents, in industry, on the highways, as well as in the home and elsewhere are largely preventable and that they are not prevented is a damning indictment of the nation's humanity and common sense."

A. F. of L. Convention Will Center Attention on Efforts to Strengthen Recovery Act, President Green Says

Delegates to Plan More Effective Operation of NIRA, to Provide More Jobs and Greater Purchasing Power, Labor Head Declares, in Predicting Washington Meeting Will be Biggest Since 1917—Federation Not to be Stopped in Great Nation-wide Drive to Organize the Unorganized.

Washington.—Attention of delegates to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor opening in Washington on October 2 will be centered on strengthening the National Industrial Recovery Act to produce more employment and more buying power, President William Green of the Federation said here. He predicted that the convention would be the largest since the Buffalo war-time convention of 1917.

President Green declared that the convention will make it clear that the A. F. of L. is not to be stopped in its great nation-wide organization campaign. He said the convention would also make it clear that labor's goal is an industry operated for service to the nation and that the machinery of governmental labor be represented by labor's own choosing, as a matter of right and not as a matter of privilege.

"Dedication of the magnificent Memorial to the late Samuel Gompers will afford an opportunity for labor to express our devotion to our late chieftain and to revere his memory as one of America's greatest men, but it will give us an opportunity to formulate again, before the entire nation the idealism of our movement.

Labors Goal to be Set Forth

"We shall be able to center American attention on our program as a movement for cooperation in industry, for the stabilization of industry and as the foundation for a new era of stability, a new unit in the great labor guarantee of sound economic and progress through cooperation. We fight battles and we shall continue to fight battles. But our program is one of peace; there is no other method of preserving the right to function peacefully and constructively. Our goal is an industry operated for service to the nation and its people, and the convention will make that clear."

Makes Two Points Clear

"I want to make it clear, as our Council's report will make it clear, that the American Federation of Labor is going to organize the unorganized. By that I mean two things:

"First. It is not going to be stopped in its energetic and sweeping campaign to bring workers into unionism throughout the nation.

"Second. It is going to continue to be, as it has been for more than half a century, the recognized, all-embracing spokesman for American labor. That means there is no room in the United States for two labor movements."

NIRA Biggest Issue

"In our convention we shall have delegates representative of all of the workers, elected and responsible only to the membership of labor unions. The voice of labor will be heard on every vital public issue. However, our main attention will be centered upon the Recovery Act, in an effort to strengthen its operation so as to produce more employment and more purchasing power. We have no unduly optimistic picture of the benefits of the Recovery Act in terms of new employment up to this time, but it is evident that the Recovery Act is sound in principle, that it has started the nation on the upward swing and that it must succeed, for the reason that its failure means a chaos that the nation cannot stand."

Labor Representation Imperative

"Not only are we concerned as to reduction of work-hours per week to a level lower than the average thus far fixed in codes, both temporary and permanent, and as to higher rates of pay than the average thus far established, but we are concerned about the question of collective bargaining and labor in machinery created under codes. Our convention will consider and convey to congress itself emphatically on this question of representation and to demand that in all of the machinery of governmental labor be represented by labor's own choosing, as a matter of right and not as a matter of privilege.

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Chinese Silk Workers Win Wage Strike; Women Work Long Hours; Factory Law Not Enforced

Shanghai, China.—Almost unbelievably low wages and long hours of labor imposed on Chinese silk workers by the textile industry of China, largest industry in China, together with the refusal of the Government to give the workers the protection of labor legislation by law, are revealed by Paul H. Whang in an article in the China Weekly Review, an English periodical published here.

The capitalists who own the industry are called "silk filature operators." Mr. Whang points out that every year the opening of the cocoon season brings labor controversies caused by the revolt of the silk workers against conditions of work.

Wage Controversies

In 1930 the employers reduced wages from 48 to 40 cents a day and lengthened the working hours by an hour or more. Last year the silk workers struck on two occasions, demanding the restoration of the former wages and a reduction in the work day to eight hours a day. The filature operators granted the hours reduction but refused the wage increase until the silk trade revived.

With the opening of the cocoon season this year the market improved, the local price registering an increase of about $200 per picul. Encouraged by their belief that the business slump was over and that they were therefore entitled to their wage and salary advance, the silk workers in the Chapei and Honkkew districts declared a general strike and remained out until the employers promised to increase their pay from 48 cents to 50 cents a day and restore their allowances.

Women Work Long Hours in Dark

Commenting on the strike and general labor conditions in the silk industry, Mr. Whang says:

"That the working hours should be shortened cannot be gainsaid, by the mere fact that workers are working eight hours a day in some foreign countries, our women and children in silk filatures are still drudging from sunrise to sunset with an hour for lunch in between.

"The factory law has been proclaimed by the Government, but has so far remained a dead letter. In spite of the frequent cries for ameliorating labor conditions, the state of female and child labor has not been altered. Therefore it is only natural that they have been continuously clamoring for decrease in working hours.

"We are now striving to improve the quality of our silk, but how can we be successful in our efforts when our producing hands are literally in a state of exhaustion after working day after day for unreasonably long hours?

"The strain from long hours and continuous work upon the women is too heavy, and as a result they have lost their health and strength altogether. Many of them have become blind or prove their efficiency. This state of affairs will not be changed by wage and allowance, the silk workers in the Chapei and Honkkew districts declared in general strike and remained out until the

Wage Increase Ends Shoe Strike

Carthage, Mo.—An agreement to give 200 women workers of the Carmo Shoe Company here a 37½ per cent increase over wages in effect prior to August 2, when the President's re-employment agreement became effective, ended a strike of 160 workers in the plant.

Secretary Ickes estimated that not less than 85 per cent of the public works fund would go into the pay envelopes of labor. "I am extremely pleased with what the end is being accomplished," he said, "figures will not be estimated until they are definitely established."

Union Recognition Brings End to Millinery Strike

St. Louis.—Following signing of an agreement recognizing the union, 2,000 striking millinery workers returned to their jobs here. Terms of the agreement were similar to those accepted previously by 1,500 striking members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Sydney, Australia, Water Board Employs 1,800 Union Men on Construction Project

Sydney, Australia.—Organized labor in Sydney won a decided victory in the decision of the Metropolitan Water Board to employ around 1,800 union men under union conditions in the extension of the water and drainage system at a cost of 650,000 pounds sterling, declares the Australian Worker. The work will be spread over a period of eight months. A further sum of 167,000 pounds will be spent during the following four months, making a total of $23,000 pounds for the year.

The board decided to suspend the rationing system by which its employees "stood down" from work for one week in every three. The chief engineer reported that a proposal to adhere to rationing and to employ additional labor would be definitely unconomic. The motion in favor of the abolition of rationing was carried by 14 votes to 1.

Detroit Auto Strike Ends As Employer Agrees to Abide by NRA Labor Code

Detroit, Mich.—A strike at the plant of the Bower Roller Bearing Company ended in victory for the workers and paved a big forward step in the campaign to organize the automobile industry in the Detroit area.

The strike was called before the local NRA Compliance Board because of the complaint of the company that the American Federation of Labor had "intimidated" employes and caused the walkout. After a five hours' conference with both sides represented, the following agreement was made:

"It is agreed by both parties to this dispute that the rights of employes as set forth in Section 7 (a) of the Recovery Act shall prevail and shall be recognized by employes and employer alike. All men and women shall be reinstated in their employment and all men and women who have been laid off shall be given a fair hearing before any new men or women are taken on, provided they are qualified. Any grievances that may arise between the management and the committee representing the union employes shall be referred to the NRA Compliance Board for arbitration and adjustment."

The settlement was approved by vote of the union, which is chartered by the A. F. of L. The settlement is expected to lead to increased progress in the organization drive here, which is in charge of Organizer William Collins of the A. F. of L.